

# WtW Update for March 2001

## ***Statewide Update***

Over 1,500 are now enrolled in the Welfare-to-Work (WtW) formula program in Indiana. This is an increase of around 25% since October 1, 2000.

Fifteen of the 16 Workforce Service Areas now report enrollments in the WtW formula grant program and many have experienced rapid growth over the last few months.

Additionally, of the 1,545 clients now enrolled in formula programs in Indiana, 970 are now employed. Of those, 825 are in unsubsidized positions.

## ***Enrollments***

WIBs enrollments for the WtW formula grant programs were as follows, as of the middle of February 2001.

<b><u>WIBs</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Enrollees</u></b>
Southern 7	232
Madison-Grant	228
Southeastern	189
Kankakee Valley	180
Northern	146
Marion County	105
Northeast	100
<b><i>State Average</i></b>	<b>97</b>
North Central	95
Circle 7	73
Southwest	70
Shawnee Trace	67
East Central	38
Northwest	10
Tecumseh Partnership	7
South Central	5
Western	0

## ***Implementation Delay***

With the change of administrations, the full implementation of the WtW Final Rule has been delayed until April 13, 2001. For further information, see

<<http://www.doleta.gov/regions/reg05/documents/ib057-1-01.htm>>

## ***Partnership & Transportation?***

Are limitations to the what you can do with WtW funds frustrating your efforts to keep WtW clients employed? Are transportation problems one of our major headaches? If so, the Welfare to Work Partnership may be able to suggest some possible solutions.

For innovative help with the problems of transporting WtW clients to work, see the Welfare to Work Partnership website to download the publication “Road to Work.” The address is [www.welfaretowork.org](http://www.welfaretowork.org)

Click on “Resource Materials” and scroll down to the paragraph about entitled “The Road to Work.” It’s a how-to manual for designing solutions to meet specific transportation challenges. While at the Partnership’s website, you might also want to check the Best Practices link for other suggestions and ideas.

For people working directly with WtW clients, the Partnership also have a series of “Smart Solutions.” Topics include child care, financial literacy, health care, and mentoring. Most are aimed at service providers but some include a section to share with the clients. Also on the Resource Materials page, scroll down to the words “Smart Solutions” and click there.

Although this website is aimed directly at businesses, programs, projects, and solutions profiled there are by and large adaptable to your circumstances if you are looking for suggestions and ideas.

### ***Easy Recruitments***

Want some easy way to recruit WtW clients? When you go into jails and prisons in your WSA, you offer the incarcerated a welcome change from their normal routine. And now that vocational or occupational training can precede the employment by up to six months, WtW is definitely a benefit suited to the residents. It is also a way to help with recidivism. We can of course help with any soft skill or coping problems (if they didn’t have a coping problem, would they be in jail?) and now we can help with skill deficiencies among those being released within six months. The only problem, a very minor one, would be the logistics of getting together the prisoners and the training.

Incidentally, Colorado found that approximately 30% of inmates and parolees were NCPs known to the Division of Child Support Enforcement. Also, typically the incarcerated do not know that child support can be modified while they are in prison. What a great opportunity.

### ***\$8,500 for WtW New Hires?***

Know any employers who would like to receive \$8,500 for their new hires? That’s right. The federal WtW tax credit was extended through December 31, 2002. As administered under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) certification procedures, employers can reduce their federal tax liability by up to \$8,500 per new hire. For full details, see the following website: <http://workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/employ/wtw.asp>

In Indiana, the WOTC contact is Sean Blancaneaux at (317) 232-7186.

### ***Federal Bonding Available***

Do you have a client regarded as “at risk” because of his past behavior? USDOL can help with a new program. Federal bonding is now available to help alleviate employer concerns about potentially untrustworthy job applicants from the WtW program. For more information, check the following website: <http://wtw.doleta.gov/documents/fedbonding.asp>

### ***Control Group***

We have received permission to serve the TANF control group if they come to us and ask for services. There may not be many of them, but it is a break through for those that do remain.